



*A Union of Professionals*  
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**Written testimony submitted to the Maryland Senate Finance Committee  
SB 809 - Education - Public School Employees - Parental Leave  
March 2, 2023**

**SUPPORT**

Chair Griffith and members of the committee, on behalf of the 20,000 members of the American Federation of Teachers – Maryland (AFT-MD), including our affiliate the Baltimore Teachers Union (BTU), we ask for a favorable report on SB 809, a bill that allows public school employees to request parental leave with pay for the birth or adoption of a child under the age of six. If an employee has less than 60 days of accrued paid leave, the employer must provide the employee an additional paid leave to attain 60 days.

As we all know, the health and safety of infants, children and their families are imperative during the early days of a birth or adoption. This bill will allow a primary caregiver responsible for the care and nurturing of a child may use up to 60 days of parental leave to care for the child during the period immediately following the birth of the employee's child or the placement of a child under the age of six with the employee for adoption.

Maryland needs to recruit more and retain the teachers we have. By providing an adequate amount of time to recover from birth and bond with an infant or newly adopted child will help encourage teachers to apply or stay on the job when they choose to expand their families.

Again, we ask for a favorable report on SB 809. Thank you.